

HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON AFGHANISTAN

Washington, DC-U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin released the following statement on the President's address to the nation on Afghanistan:

"The President is rightly focused on our core policy objective in Afghanistan: to combat al-Qaeda and ensure that this region can never again be used as a base for terrorist action against Americans. The United States and our NATO allies have a direct interest in disrupting and dismantling al-Qaeda and countering extremist Taliban forces in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is a national security imperative.

"Through meetings with the Secretary of Defense and other officials, I have communicated my priorities to the Administration. We must have a clear mission, create conditions for accountability, be able to measure progress towards our goals, and work to meet those goals as quickly as possible. Our commitment is not indefinite, and our resources are not infinite. And critically, we must give our precious American men and women in uniform all the resources and support they need so they can complete their mission as quickly and safely as possible.

"I'll continue to work with the Administration, military officials and members of Congress to meet these goals and ensure a clearly defined and measurable mission for our nation's involvement in the region."

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